

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. Canceled.
2. Canceled.
3. Canceled.
4. Canceled.
5. Canceled.
6. Canceled.
7. Canceled.
8. Canceled.
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10. Canceled.
11. Canceled.
12. Canceled.
13. Canceled.
14. Canceled.
15. Canceled.
16. Canceled.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for folding a moving nonwoven web having a first portion adjoining an adjacent second portion, comprising:

~~forming the nonwoven web on a collector in a forming zone;~~

moving the ~~collector~~ nonwoven web in a machine direction ~~for transporting the nonwoven web away from the forming zone;~~

applying a first negative pressure differential to the first portion of the nonwoven web ~~thereby attracting the first portion to the collector;~~ and

applying a positive pressure differential to a second portion of the nonwoven web thereby causing the second portion to fold toward the first portion about a fold line extending in the machine direction.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

applying a second negative pressure differential to the first portion of the nonwoven web upstream of the first negative pressure differential.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

applying a second negative pressure differential to the first portion of the nonwoven web downstream of the first negative pressure differential.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising:

applying a third negative pressure differential to the first portion of the nonwoven web upstream of the first negative pressure differential.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17 where applying a positive pressure differential further comprises:

impinging the second portion with an air flow substantially perpendicular to a plane containing the second portion.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17 where applying a positive pressure differential further comprises:

impinging the second portion with an air flow inclined at an angle relative to a plane containing the second portion.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17 where applying a positive pressure differential further comprises:

impinging the second portion with an air flow in the machine direction against the second portion.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17 where applying a positive pressure differential further comprises:

impinging the second portion with an air flow counter to the machine direction against the second portion.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 ~~[[where]]~~ wherein applying a positive pressure differential further comprises:

impinging the second portion with an air flow in a cross-machine direction perpendicular to the machine direction.

26. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

extending a continuous elastic member in the machine direction adjacent to the nonwoven web; and

securing the continuous elastic member in a space defined between the second portion and the first portion after folding.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the elastic member defines the longitudinal fold line about which the positive pressure differential causes the second portion to fold relative to the first portion.

28. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

contacting the second portion with an inclined ramp upstream of the positive pressure differential for moving the second portion relative to the first portion.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for folding a moving nonwoven web having a first portion adjoining an adjacent second portion, comprising:

~~forming the nonwoven web on a collector in a forming zone;~~

~~moving the collector nonwoven web in a machine direction for transporting the nonwoven web away from the forming zone in a machine direction;~~

~~applying a first negative pressure differential to the first portion and the second portion of the nonwoven web; thereby attracting the first portion and the second portion to the collector; and~~

~~applying a second negative pressure differential to the first portion of the nonwoven web downstream in the machine direction from the first negative pressure differential; thereby attracting the first portion to the collector and~~

~~aspirating air through the second portion effective to fold the second portion toward the first portion about a fold line extending in the machine direction.~~

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

~~extending a continuous elastic member in the machine direction adjacent to the nonwoven web; and~~

~~securing the continuous elastic member in a space defined between the second portion and the first portion after folding.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the elastic member defines the longitudinal fold line about which ~~the positive pressure differential causes the~~ second portion ~~to fold~~ folds relative to the first portion.

32. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
forming the nonwoven web on a collector in a forming zone; and
moving the nonwoven web on the collector away from the forming zone.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein applying the first negative pressure differential further comprises attracting the first portion to the collector.

34. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
forming the nonwoven web on a collector in a forming zone; and
moving the nonwoven web on the collector away from the forming zone.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein applying the first negative pressure differential further comprises attracting the first portion and the second portion to the collector, and applying the second negative pressure differential further comprises attracting the first portion to the collector.